

By: Wu

H.B. No. 699

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the ability of foster parents to intervene in certain  
3 suits affecting the parent-child relationship.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Section 102.004(b), Family Code, is amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (b) An original suit requesting possessory conservatorship  
8 may not be filed by a grandparent or other person. However, the  
9 court may grant a grandparent or other person deemed by the court to  
10 have had substantial past contact with the child or a foster parent  
11 described by Section 102.003(a)(12) leave to intervene in a pending  
12 suit filed by a person authorized to do so under this chapter  
13 [~~subchapter~~] if there is satisfactory proof to the court that  
14 appointment of a parent as a sole managing conservator or both  
15 parents as joint managing conservators would significantly impair  
16 the child's physical health or emotional development.

17 SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to  
18 an original suit affecting the parent-child relationship filed on  
19 or after the effective date of this Act. An original suit affecting  
20 the parent-child relationship filed before the effective date of  
21 this Act is subject to the law in effect at the time the suit was  
22 filed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

23 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.